

Your way to intact tails

Always ensure...

Good enrichment material

- Is present 24/7 and is not covered with faeces
- Is regularly replaced so its novelty is maintained
- Is manipulable
- Can be chewed on (by the pigs)



Enough space

- Room for tail-bitten pigs in **hospital pens** if needed
- Tail biting pigs have to be isolated
- Avoid overcrowding in the regular pens (check at L&F: <https://gris.dk/services/haleguide>)
- Enough feeding points for all (check at L&F: <https://gris.dk/services/haleguide/hyppigste-aarsager-til-halebid>)
- In our experience, purebred animals require more space

Enough water

Check the valves in the unit – are the pigs crowding around the water?

- Can they be activated easily or is the water pressure too high?
- Are they calcified so that the flow is reduced?
- A **water level** at the bottom of the trough is preferable

Enough feed

Feed stoppage causes tail bites – it is as simple as that.

- Ensure that you do not pressure the system to its maximum.
- Bridge formation: be careful with the degree of grinding if the feed tends to “pack”.
- Silos that run dry must always be avoided
- Does what is fed to the animals correspond to what is listed in the feed formulation?
- Adjust the feeder so that 1/3 of the plate is covered with feed
- We see a good effect of **fibre rich and filling** feed – wrap of a good quality is very good

Are your week batches the same size?
Pigs that are weaned at different ages have different needs. This is the case with both immediate environment and feed – and immunity is different as well.
Furthermore, mess in batch control also results in unnecessarily big variations in the number of weaned.

Good ventilation

Is there draught or downfall of cold air? Are the coverings closely fitted in the nursery?

We are happy to bring our **thermographic camera** with us at the next visit so we can help identify and solve the issue.

Furthermore, you should have focus on minimising the temperature variations day/night.



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When the damage is done

The first signs

A **low-hanging tail** is the first sign of tail bite

Therefore, focus on the tail posture and take action already here



Remove the biter and the bitten

- Spend time on checking whether there are one or more pigs that primarily bite the others
- Remove the biting pig(s) from the pen
- The bitten pigs are removed from the pen

Good enrichment material

- Is present 24/7
- Is replaced so its novelty is maintained
- Is manipulable
- Can be chewed on (by the pigs)
- Is not covered in faeces

Examples of well-functioning enrichment material is **straw and rope**. Furthermore, it might have a good effect to spread sugar beet pellets on the floor. Continue giving new material until the problem has settled down.

